

# 2019 Washington Workforce Development News



## December 10, 2019

### **WORKFORCE BOARD LAUNCHES NEW AGENCY WEBSITE**

We're more than a little excited to share the launch of our new, oh-so-navigable, WordPress powered website. It's streamlined and stylish, filled with eye-pleasing icons, and includes a streaming social media feed, among other features. We listened to stakeholder feedback during the beta testing phase and the site is better than ever and fresh for the new year! The clock's ticking so start clicking at [www.wtb.wa.gov](http://www.wtb.wa.gov).

### **FUTURE OF WORK TASK FORCE PUBLISHES NEW REPORT**

The state's Future of Work Task Force issued a report last week to the Governor and Legislature that includes key policy recommendations to help ensure shared prosperity among Washington's workers, employers, and communities. The report includes a focus on enhancing worker training so employees can be upskilled as technology accelerates. This first-in-the-nation effort to investigate the future of work was funded by the 2018 Legislature and put Washington in the spotlight as a thought leader. The Legislature funded two staff positions at the Workforce Board and created a 16-member Task Force made up of legislators, business, and labor leaders. The Task Force was charged with developing a set of policy recommendations to help Washington's businesses and workers prosper together. Read more about the project and download the report at:

<https://bit.ly/35ao61q>

### **WORKFORCE BOARD STAFF TO TESTIFY ABOUT FUTURE OF WORK TO U.S. HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Speaking of the future of work, the U.S. House Higher Education and Workforce Investment subcommittee has asked Workforce Board staff to testify on December 18 about Washington's Future of Work project and Task Force. This includes a closer look at how the state's workforce system currently helps unemployed workers, an overview of the state's workforce training programs, and more details about the Task Force's policy recommendations to address upcoming challenges. Nova Gattman, the agency's Deputy Director for External Affairs, will provide the testimony before a national audience.

### **WORKFORCE BOARD ISSUES NEW BEHAVIORAL HEALTH REPORT**

The Workforce Board has issued a new report that addresses shortages in behavioral health professions in Washington, in collaboration with the University of Washington Center for Health Workforce Studies. Behavioral health is an evolving area that incorporates mental health and substance use treatment. The report's recommendations were shaped by a workgroup that included health facility leaders, behavioral health providers, educators, organized labor, not-for-profit organizations, and state and local government agencies. A particular focus was on behavioral health licensing reciprocity, and the role of background checks in hiring and retention decisions, with an emphasis on criminal history or substance use disorder. The report is the first phase of a two-part project. <https://Bit.ly/BHworkforce>

### **PERKINS V PLAN PERFORMANCE TARGETS OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

The new federal Career and Technical Education (CTE) law, Perkins V, allows states to craft their own performance targets on a range of program success indicators and requires each state to release proposed targets for public comment. Proposed performance targets—both at the secondary (K-12) and postsecondary (community and technical college) levels—for the next three program years, beginning July 1, 2020, are available for review at <https://www.wtb.wa.gov/about-us/carl-perkins-cte/>. Public comments will be accepted via email through February 7 at [workforce@wtb.wa.gov](mailto:workforce@wtb.wa.gov).

# November 19, 2019

## **WORKFORCE BOARD TO DISCUSS STATE WORKFORCE PLAN PRIORITIES TOMORROW IN AUBURN**

The Workforce Board meets at the Junior Achievement Pemco Achievement Zone in Auburn Wednesday (Nov. 20) from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and will be asked for input on priorities, goals, and guidance in updating the state's strategic workforce plan, "Talent and Prosperity for All" or TAP. The Board will also provide input on how to best engage stakeholders and the public in updating the portion of the state's plan that addresses Career and Technical Education, known as Perkins. More meeting details: <https://bit.ly/2rZjixf>

## **NEW STUDENT COMPLAINT PORTAL OPENS**

A new online portal has opened for students attending private career schools and other regulated institutions to file consumer protection complaints. The portal launched earlier this month and is the result of legislation passed in 2019 requiring several regulatory agencies to collaborate on a public-facing portal. The Workforce Board, Washington Student Achievement Council, and state Department of Licensing are the site's primary partners, along with the state's Nursing Commission. Student complaints will be routed to the appropriate agency. Students will continue to be able to file complaints directly with each agency. View the portal: <https://www.studentcomplaints.wa.gov/hc/en-us>

## **WASHINGTON EMPLOYERS HONORED FOR HIRING VETERANS**

The state's Employment Security Department recognized 12 Washington businesses and public agencies earlier this month for their efforts to hire military veterans in 2019. Employment Security created the Hire-A-Vet award to call attention to unemployed veterans in Washington and to recognize companies with a good track record of hiring, retaining, and celebrating veterans in their workforce. One winner was selected from each of the state's 12 workforce development areas. Find out who received an award at: <https://bit.ly/32Zjf11>

## **STATE GRANTS AVAILABLE TO ADD BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FACILITIES**

The state's Department of Commerce is accepting applications from community hospitals, healthcare providers and others for grants to expand or build new behavioral health facilities in the Spokane region. The legislature set aside \$2 million for one or more facilities to provide an additional 16 crisis or stabilization beds as part of a federal court settlement. The grant is referred to as the Trueblood Competitive Grant. These new beds will address both urban and rural needs. The Workforce Board staffs the state's Health Workforce Council and actively tracks capacity issues and education and training needs for our state's health workforce. Workforce Board staff are also evaluating behavioral health workforce needs as part of a focused assessment on this evolving healthcare field. It includes both mental health and substance-use disorders that impact health. More details about Commerce's grants at: <https://bit.ly/2KAYBOp> More information about the Health Workforce Council at: <https://bit.ly/2QEU55g>

## **PAVE THE WAY CONFERENCE SET FOR DECEMBER 11**

The annual Pave the Way conference, which focuses on strategies to enhance equity, increase college readiness, and broaden access to higher education in Washington, is coming soon. The conference is being held on the University of Washington-Seattle campus. There's still time to register. <https://bit.ly/2qr4Eyc>

## October 30, 2019

### **LISTEN AND LEARN FORUM ON PERKINS CTE PLAN SET FOR NOVEMBER 6 IN GRAND MOUND**

State partners are hosting a forum to solicit community input on the state's Perkins Career and Technical Education (CTE) plan from 10 a.m. to noon, November 6, at Great Wolf Lodge in Grand Mound. This is the first of several community engagement opportunities to focus on the new strategic plan for using federal funds to support CTE. Partners will announce additional dates and times as they are organized, and stakeholders will have separate opportunities to offer feedback on the strategic plan during a public comment process.

<https://bit.ly/34aEU7w>

### **STATE TASK FORCE EXPLORES "FUTURE OF WORK" IN OLYMPIA NEXT WEEK**

A state task force focused on "future-proofing" Washington's workforce and businesses will meet from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Thursday, November 7 in Olympia. The Future of Work project, launched last year by the state Legislature and staffed by the Workforce Board, looks at how both Washington's workforce and employers can prosper together in the face of technological change. The Task Force will discuss policy recommendations, status of pilot projects, and 2020 Task Force meeting planning, among other topics. Meetings are open to the public. <https://bit.ly/2RfblGf>

### **SHARE YOUR HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE NEEDS NOW: SENTINEL NETWORK SURVEY DEADLINE APPROACHES**

Healthcare providers from across the state are encouraged to answer a brief 10-question survey on their hiring challenges and skills that are hard to find. The Health Sentinel Network collects ground-level feedback at regular intervals to help ensure the state's health workforce system is responsive to emerging needs. Survey results will be shared with educators, policymakers, and the public. But don't delay! The survey closes Nov. 8.

<https://bit.ly/34aBfXk>

### **NOVEMBER IS GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP MONTH**

The state's Department of Commerce is helping celebrate entrepreneurs as part of Global Entrepreneurship Week, Nov. 18-24, which includes events focused on everything from financing a small business to learning about the connection between curiosity and problem-solving. Get more details: <https://bit.ly/2q43aJO>

### **ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE SCHOLARSHIP**

It's a spooky time of year. Why not apply for a scholarship that features the walking dead? All you need to do is, ahem, flesh out a plan to avoid the zombies, where you would hide, and the top-five things you'd bring to stay alive in 250 words or less. It could be worth \$2,000 toward your college education. <https://bit.ly/332OwRD>

# October 9, 2019

## STATE TASK FORCE EXPLORES “FUTURE OF WORK” IN SEATAC TOMORROW

A state task force focused on “future proofing” Washington’s workforce and businesses will meet from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Thursday, October 10 in SeaTac. The Future of Work project, launched last year by the state Legislature and staffed by the Workforce Board, looks at how technological advances can help both Washington’s workforce and employers prosper together. The 16-member task force, made up of legislators, business, and labor leaders, will discuss policy recommendations, legislative outreach, and final report drafting. Meetings are open to the public. <https://bit.ly/2RfblGf>

## WASHINGTON STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL RECRUITS BUSINESS AND LABOR REPRESENTATIVES

The Washington State Rehabilitation Council is currently recruiting members to contribute diverse perspectives on opportunities and barriers experienced by people with disabilities in employment. If you’re interested in serving as a labor or business representative, contact Shelby Satko, Executive Director at 360-764-0728 or [shelby.satko@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:shelby.satko@dshs.wa.gov). To apply, complete an application on the Governor’s Boards & Commissions website. <https://bit.ly/2q05yBm>

## WORKFORCE BOARD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SPEAKS TO POWER OF CREDENTIALS ON NATIONAL PLATFORM

An online higher education newspaper, Evollution, recently featured a question-and-answer session with the Workforce Board’s Executive Director Eleni Papadakis, who discussed how skill-based, shorter-term training is increasing as technology accelerates. Eleni, along with Communications Director Marina Parr (hey, that’s me!), talked about the shift toward shorter-term credentials, including certificates and badges, and how they’re helping fill skill gaps as occupations change more quickly. The Workforce Board has embarked on a project to better translate these skills, competencies, and experiences by linking the agency’s CareerBridge.wa.gov site with Credential Engine, a national registry of credentials. A first step of this project is publishing thousands of Career Bridge’s education programs (credentials) to this national platform. Read the full interview: <https://bit.ly/2nTup91>

## AJAC HOSTS NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP CELEBRATION NEXT MONTH

The Aerospace Joint Apprenticeship Committee (AJAC) will host a national apprenticeship celebration from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., Thursday, November 7 at Sno-Isle TECH Skills Center in Everett. This free event features a six-person apprenticeship panel that includes apprentices from a wide range of industries, hands-on activities, and networking opportunities with 28 apprenticeship organizations. Register at: <https://www.ajactraining.org/national-apprenticeship-celebration/>

## 10 WORDS OR LESS SCHOLARSHIP

Do you have what it takes to write tight and bright? This college scholarship asks why you deserve the money...in 10 words or less. It could be worth \$500. <https://bit.ly/2Vtj0Jz>. Or maybe you’re in the hunt for a bigger financial boost. Check out the \$5,000 Education Matters scholarship. In 250 words or less, explain to naysayers why education matters and college isn’t a waste of time and money. <https://bit.ly/1NI8ohO>. Want other tips on how to pay for school? Head to the Pay for School section on [Career Bridge!](#)

# September 19, 2019

## **WORKFORCE BOARD SEEKS PROPOSALS FOR NEW CREDENTIAL COORDINATOR POSITION**

The Workforce Board has reopened a Request for Proposals, originally advertised this summer, with a new submission deadline of October 1. The agency is seeking an experienced education/workforce professional to coordinate a project that aims to upload thousands of Washington education programs from [CareerBridge.wa.gov](http://CareerBridge.wa.gov) to a national credential registry. The agency was awarded a \$50,000 grant from Credential Engine and will be the 10th state to add credentials to the national registry. The coordinator will provide one-on-one assistance through a "Help Desk," create training materials, and convene a new Credential Advisory Committee, among other activities. Proposals must be submitted through the state's contracting portal WEBS. More details: <https://www.wtb.wa.gov/credentialengine.asp>

## **WORKFORCE BOARD HOLDS WEBINAR FOCUSED ON EMPLOYEE OWNERSHIP**

The Workforce Board is holding the second in a series of webinars connected to the agency's Future of Work project. The webinar, focused on employee ownership, including employee stock ownership plans (ESOP) and cooperatives, runs from 10 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, September 25, and will feature national experts, as well as local views on employee ownership. The moderator is Timothy Garbinsky, outreach coordinator for the National Center for Employee Ownership. [https://www.wtb.wa.gov/futureofwork\\_meetings.asp](https://www.wtb.wa.gov/futureofwork_meetings.asp)

## **MDRC STUDY HIGHLIGHTS SPOKANE AND PACIFIC MOUNTAIN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS**

A study conducted by MDRC for the federal Office of Family Assistance highlights the innovative coordination strategies of TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) and WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) programs in serving low-income and vulnerable populations. In Spokane, WorkSource and partners have restructured staffing, resources, and approaches to workforce development services with a customer-centered design. More about that project: <https://peerta.acf.hhs.gov/content/tanfwoia-collaboration-spokane-washington>. In the Pacific Mountain Workforce Region (Thurston, Lewis, Mason, Grays Harbor, and Pacific counties), WorkSource and other partners offer three program tracks—work ready, work support, and education—to TANF customers based on their level of work readiness. More on that project: <https://peerta.acf.hhs.gov/content/tanfwoia-collaboration-pacific-mountain-region-washington>

## **TACOMA FORUM FEATURES NOTED FUTURIST**

Workforce Central is hosting a forum from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 26 that features futurist and best-selling author Martin Ford, who will offer his ideas about what's ahead in the future of work. Local experts will also share their efforts to prepare Pierce County workers for threats—and opportunities—of automation in the workforce. Get tickets and more details at: <https://bit.ly/332IReC>

## **CONFERENCE SPEAKERS ANNOUNCED FOR OCTOBER 29-30 WASHINGTON WORKFORCE CONFERENCE**

Ron Painter, president of the National Association of Workforce Boards, is among the featured speakers at the October 29-30 Washington Workforce Association conference in SeaTac. The Workforce Board's Executive Director Eleni Papadakis will be part of a lunchtime panel. Learn more and register at early bird rates at: <https://bit.ly/2krnliv>

# September 10, 2019

## **HEALTH WORKFORCE COUNCIL MEETS IN OLYMPIA NEXT WEEK**

Washington's Health Workforce Council, staffed by the Workforce Board, will meet Tuesday, Aug. 6 at the John A. Cherberg Building in Olympia from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The Council will learn more about Washington's home care workforce, including who they are, who they serve, and challenges with recruitment and retention. The Council will also hear updates from the Health Workforce Sentinel Network, which collects ground-level feedback from healthcare providers from across the state on emerging needs. <https://bit.ly/2cHcVkJ>

## **STATE TASK FORCE EXPLORES "FUTURE OF WORK" IN SPOKANE ON AUGUST 8**

A state task force focused on "future proofing" Washington's workforce and businesses will meet from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 8 at the Spokane Workforce Council Event Center. The Future of Work project, launched last year by the state Legislature and staffed by the Workforce Board, looks at how technological advances can help both Washington's workforce and employers prosper together. The 16-member Task Force, made up of legislators, business, and labor leaders, is creating policy recommendations and success indicators to track progress. Meetings are open to the public. <https://bit.ly/2RfblGf>

## **BENTON-FRANKLIN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE AND LOGO**

Those looking for information from the Benton-Franklin Workforce Development Council in the Tri-Cities area can more easily find what they're looking for thanks to a new website that provides a more modern, user-friendly experience. The website's home page features six easy-to-access boxes to help customers navigate the site. A regional landmark known as the Cable Bridge inspired the WDC's new logo and reflects "connections, stability, and overcoming obstacles." Check it out! <https://www.bentonfranklinwdc.com/>

## **STATE AGENCIES TEAM UP IN TACOMA TO HELP SMALL BUSINESSES RESPOND TO REGULATIONS**

A team of state agencies, including the Washington Department of Revenue, Employment Security Department, Department of Labor and Industries, and the Governor's Office of Regulatory Innovation and Assistance, are holding a free workshop from 10 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, August 21 in Tacoma. Participants will be provided with regulation updates, best practices and tips, programs and services, and more. Details: <https://bit.ly/2ZrQNny>

## **FORMER WORKFORCE SOUTHWEST CEO BENNETT APPOINTED TO CLARK COLLEGE BOARD**

Jeanne Bennett, retired CEO of Workforce Southwest Washington, has been appointed by Gov. Jay Inslee to the Clark College Board of Trustees. Bennett is a Vancouver, Wash. resident, and a longtime community leader. <https://news.clark.edu/2019/06/clark-college-announces-new-trustee/>

# August 22, 2019

## STUDENT DATA DUE TO WORKFORCE BOARD NEXT WEEK

Schools reporting student data to the Workforce Board have until August 28 to finish loading records into the agency's secure, encrypted Student Data Portal. Get [detailed instructions](#) and watch a recorded webinar. The Workforce Board uses this data to evaluate the performance of education and training programs, including employment and earnings of recent graduates.

## WHERE ARE YOU GOING? CAREER GUIDES AVAILABLE NOW!

What's purple, packed with career and education information, and absolutely free? Why it's the current edition of the Workforce Board's ever-popular Where Are You Going? career guide! Order free copies of the guide, which includes a career quiz, information on hundreds of in-demand occupations, job interview tips, and more, at <https://www.wtb.wa.gov/careerguide.asp>. Bonus: the guide also serves as a printed companion to [www.CareerBridge.wa.gov](http://www.CareerBridge.wa.gov).

## FOUR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREAS RECEIVE \$5.8M TO FIGHT POVERTY

Governor Inslee awarded \$5.8 million from the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Statewide Activities fund to fight poverty in four workforce development regions across the state as part of "[Economic Security for All.](#)" It's intended to support a long-term, systemic approach to helping Washingtonians move out of poverty at large scale. The state will measure success on two key statistics: the number of families receiving food assistance benefits who move up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level, and net poverty reduction for their entire community by March 2022. Four Workforce Development Councils were awarded funding and include: Benton-Franklin WDC; Workforce Southwest Washington (Clark, Cowlitz, and Wahkiakum counties); Workforce Central (Pierce County); Spokane Workforce Council.

## SELF SUFFICIENCY CALCULATOR REDESIGNED

There's now a fresher look and feel for the Self Sufficiency Calculator that helps Washington residents learn about the cost of living in their local area, how to budget for expenses from healthcare to housing, and what impact different career choices and training programs might have on their ability to earn a living wage, among other features. The calculator is maintained by the Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County, in partnership with other Workforce Development Councils in the state, and is updated with new data every two to three years. The calculator launched in 2007 and is a popular resource on [www.CareerBridge.wa.gov](http://www.CareerBridge.wa.gov). Find out [more](#).

## SEPTEMBER WEBINAR FOCUSES ON NATIONAL SURVEY THAT COLLECTS GROUND-LEVEL WORKFORCE DATA

The Corporation for a Skilled Workforce and the Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County are co-sponsoring an informational webinar focused on a national survey that collects ground-level information about workforce services. The webinar runs from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., Wednesday, Sept. 11. It will provide more information about the Workforce Benchmarking Network's national surveys, which have yielded the largest data set of information from community-based organizations and others who provide direct workforce services. The comprehensive survey captures aggregate information about program participants, services, and a variety of results. The survey was relaunched this summer with the goal of generating more current information from the field and expanding the number and types of programs represented. Find out more and [register for the webinar](#).

# August 1, 2019

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## July 18, 2019

### **WORKFORCE BOARD SEEKS PROPOSALS FOR NEW CREDENTIAL COORDINATOR POSITION**

The Workforce Board is seeking an experienced education/workforce professional to coordinate a project that aims to upload thousands of Washington education programs from CareerBridge.wa.gov to a national credential registry. The agency was awarded a \$50,000 grant from Credential Engine and will be the 10th state to add credentials to the national registry. The coordinator will provide one-on-one assistance through a "Help Desk," create training materials, and convene a new Credential Advisory Committee, among other activities. Proposals must be submitted through the state's contracting portal WEBS by July 29. More details:

<https://www.wtb.wa.gov/credentialengine.asp>

### **SPEAKING OF CREDENTIALS...FUTURE OF WORK TASK FORCE HOLDS CREDENTIAL TRANSPARENCY WEBINAR NEXT WEEK**

As credentials proliferate online, in schools and colleges, and within industry, there's a need to clearly distinguish between and among them by defining skills, competencies, and experiences associated with each. Workforce Board Executive Director Eleni Papadakis will moderate a webinar from 10 a.m. to noon, Monday, July 22, about credential transparency and credential literacy. A panel of national speakers will discuss the building blocks being created to help states and others re-imagine credentialing systems, and the business and labor perspectives on these issues. They'll discuss the need to better describe, and make publicly available, information on the wide range of education credentials. The Workforce Board's Future of Work Task Force is exploring credentials and their ability to make our workforce more nimble and responsive to rapid change.

More webinar details: <https://bit.ly/2RfblGf>

### **WA WORKFORCE ASSOCIATION SEEKS PRESENTATIONS FOR OCTOBER CONFERENCE**

The Washington Workforce Association is seeking presentations for the association's fourth annual conference slated for October 29-30 in Sea-Tac. Dubbed "Sharing the Vision: Navigating the Future Workforce Together," this two-day conference focuses on partnerships and engagement with businesses and jobseekers, performance and operations, impacts of technology, equity and inclusion strategies, and self-care. Deadline to submit a presentation is August 16. More details: <https://bit.ly/2Sjzpii>

### **WA-ACTE SUMMER CONFERENCE RIGHT AROUND CORNER—REGISTER NOW!**

It's almost time for the annual Washington Association for Career and Technical Education conference in Spokane, slated for Aug. 4-7. The Workforce Board is among the sponsors of this multi-day conference aimed at CTE teachers from around the state. <https://www.wa-acte.org/summer>

# July 9, 2019

## **WORKFORCE BOARD HOLDS STUDENT DATA REPORTING WEBINAR THIS AFTERNOON**

The Workforce Board is holding a second webinar to help staff at schools and colleges learn to more quickly and efficiently upload data to the agency's online Student Data Portal, which opened July 1. The webinar runs from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. today. No RSVPs are required. All private career schools licensed by the Workforce Board and schools with certain programs on the state's Eligible Training Provider List are required to submit student data. Missed the webinar? No worries. The webinar will be recorded. Get more details at:

<https://bit.ly/2wnNMau>

## **WORKFORCE BOARD MEETS WEDNESDAY TO DISCUSS PLANNING PHASE FOR UPDATING TAP PLAN**

The Workforce Board meets tomorrow at South Puget Sound Community College in Olympia from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will discuss, among other items, the planning process to review and renew the state's workforce plan, "Talent and Prosperity for All," (TAP). The Board will also hear about a proposed stakeholder outreach plan to collect public input for TAP. The Board will also receive information on the 2019 Legislative session as it relates to workforce development and get an overview of the status of the Board's 2020 Legislative agenda.

<https://www.wtb.wa.gov/July2019meeting.asp>

## **WSAC EMPLOYEE NAMED NATIONAL GEAR UP PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR**

The National Council for Community and Education Partnerships has recognized the Washington Student Achievement Council's Marcie Sample as the 2019 Professional of the Year. Sample is the associate director of college access and support, and manages the Washington State GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs). Since 2007, she has worked with school districts across the state to ensure students have the knowledge and preparation to pursue their education and career goals after high school. <https://bit.ly/2S2x7UD>

## **EATONVILLE STUDENT WINS WORKFORCE BOARD'S CTE "GET REAL" VIDEO CONTEST**

A video created by Eatonville High School sophomore Alexia Price has won a first place award from the Workforce Board for promoting career and technical education (CTE) in a creative, engaging way. The three-minute video imagines a "world without CTE." The video also includes an interview with an Eatonville employer who recently hired a former CTE student. It's the second year the Workforce Board has held a CTE video contest aimed at middle and high school students. In 2017, the Workforce Board received a \$20,000 grant from Advance CTE to promote high quality career and technical education to Washington students and their parents. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PnABcJ7CIf4>

## June 5, 2019

### **WORKFORCE BOARD TO DEVELOP ACTION ITEMS AT LEAVENWORTH RETREAT THURSDAY & FRIDAY**

The Workforce Board will hold its annual retreat Thursday and Friday in Leavenworth. The retreat kicks off at 8:30 a.m. with a business meeting where the Board is expected to take action on performance measurements tied to the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. The Board will also discuss its 2020 Legislative agenda, review and develop action items for the coming year, and discuss implementation of the state's workforce plan "Talent and Prosperity for All," or TAP. More details at:

<https://www.wtb.wa.gov/June2019BoardRetreat.asp>

### **CONSTRUCTION CENTER OF EXCELLENCE RECEIVES YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP GRANT**

The Construction Center of Excellence, hosted by Renton Technical College, recently received a \$150,000 grant to expand apprenticeship pathways for high-school aged youth. The Center was one of nine grant winners funded by the national organization, Partnership to Advance Youth Apprenticeship. The grant will support local employers, educators, community partners, and policy leaders who are working to build high-quality registered youth apprenticeship programs. More details: <https://www.rtc.edu/cce-wins-grant>

### **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CONSTRUCTION TRADES SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE**

The Washington Department of Transportation's Office of Equal Opportunity is now accepting scholarship applications for On-the-Job Training Support Services in Highway Construction Trades. The scholarships are part of a larger effort to increase the participation of women, minorities, and other disadvantaged individuals in the federal-aid highway construction workforce. Find out how to apply and access application materials at:

<https://www.wsdot.wa.gov/EqualOpportunity/scholarship.htm>

### **REGISTER NOW FOR WA-ACTE SUMMER CONFERENCE IN SPOKANE**

It's almost time for the annual Washington Association for Career and Technical Education conference in Spokane, slated for Aug. 4-7. The Workforce Board is among the sponsors of this multi-day conference aimed at CTE teachers and administrators from around the state. <http://www.wa-acte.org/summer>

# May 7, 2019

## **STATE TASKFORCE EXPLORES “FUTURE OF WORK” THURSDAY IN ELLENSBURG**

A state task force focused on “future proofing” Washington’s workforce and businesses will meet from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Thursday, May 9 at Central Washington University’s Wellington Event Center. The meeting is open to the public. The Future of Work project, launched last year by the state Legislature and staffed by the Workforce Board, looks at how technological advances can help both Washington’s workforce and employers prosper together. The 16-member Task Force, made up of legislators, business, and labor leaders, is creating policy recommendations and success indicators to track progress.

[https://www.wtb.wa.gov/futureofwork\\_meetings.asp](https://www.wtb.wa.gov/futureofwork_meetings.asp)

## **RURAL COMMUNITY FORUMS COMING TO COLVILLE AND QUINCY NEXT WEEK**

The Workforce Board is hosting a series of Rural Community Vitality Forums that ask local communities what’s working in generating a strong economy, and what’s not. The final forums are scheduled for Tuesday, May 14 in Colville and Thursday, May 16 in Quincy. The forums are open to all—employers, educators, service-providers, elected officials, jobseekers, and concerned citizens. The Workforce Board was fortunate to receive a U.S. Department of Labor grant to fund a nationally recognized facilitation team to capture comments and frame next steps. Get more details and register today:

<https://www.wtb.wa.gov/RuralCommunityVitalityForums.asp>

## **SHARE YOUR HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE NEEDS: SENTINEL NETWORK EXTENDS DEADLINE**

Healthcare providers from across the state are encouraged to answer a survey on their hiring challenges and skills that are hard to find. The Health Sentinel Network collects ground-level feedback at regular intervals to help ensure the state’s health workforce system is responsive to emerging needs. But don’t delay! The new deadline is Sunday, May 12. <http://wasentinelnetwork.org/join>

## **COMMERCE LAUNCHES “SCALE UP” PROGRAM TO HELP SMALL BUSINESSES GROW**

The state’s Department of Commerce, partnering with the Thurston Economic Development Council’s Center for Business Innovation, has launched ScaleUp, a new program designed to help established small businesses get the financial expertise, operational efficiency, and marketing know-how needed to expand. Patterned after the Thurston EDC’s program, the statewide ScaleUp courses are delivered over five weeks, with one seven-hour class per week. These free classes start May 23 in Mount Vernon and May 28 in Yakima. More:

<http://startup.choosewashingtonstate.com/programs/scaleup/>

## **LINKED IN OFFERS FREE TRAINING WEBINARS FOR CAREER COUNSELORS**

LinkedIn continues to offer free training designed to help career counselors help their customers make better use of the LinkedIn online platform. Learn how to build profiles that attract employers, expand professional networks, and search and apply for jobs. The first training runs from 1-2 p.m., Tuesdays (May 14, 21, and 28). The second training runs from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., Thursdays (May 16, 23, and 30). More details and register at: <https://www.linkedin.com/help/linkedin/answer/98686>

## **IAWP CONFERENCE FEATURES “FUTURE OF WORK,” CAREER BRIDGE UPDATES**

If you’re headed to the International Association of Workforce Professionals (IAWP) conference in Tukwila this week (May 9-10), be sure to attend breakout sessions led by Workforce Board staff. Joe Wilcox will talk about the groundbreaking “Future of Work” project he’s helping manage, which explores the rise in automation and artificial intelligence and how these changes are disrupting the workforce. Communications Director Marina Parr (hey, that’s me!) will reveal exciting upgrades for CareerBridge.wa.gov, including a new digital portfolio:

<https://waiawpannualconference.weebly.com/>

# April 16, 2019

## **WORKFORCE BOARD TO DISCUSS PLANNING PRIORITIES AT APRIL 24 MEETING IN LACEY**

The Workforce Board will discuss priorities for the latest revision to the state's workforce plan "Talent and Prosperity for All," (TAP), on Wednesday, April 24 in Lacey. The meeting runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and also includes a legislative update. More details coming soon! [www.wtb.wa.gov](http://www.wtb.wa.gov)

## **RURAL COMMUNITY FORUMS ASK WHAT'S WORKING, WHAT'S NOT?--FROM TOPPENISH TO ABERDEEN**

The Workforce Board is hosting four Rural Community Vitality Forums that ask local communities what's working in generating a strong economy, and what's not. The first forum kicks off next Tuesday, April 23 in Toppenish. The second forum follows close behind, on Thursday, April 25 in Aberdeen. Two more forums are scheduled for May 14 in Colville and May 16 in Quincy. The forums are open to all—employers, educators, service-providers, elected officials, jobseekers, and concerned citizens. The Workforce Board was fortunate to receive a U.S. Department of Labor grant that helps fund a nationally recognized facilitation team who will help capture comments and frame next steps. Get more details and register today for a forum near you:

<https://www.wtb.wa.gov/RuralCommunityVitalityForums.asp>

## **STATEWIDE HEALTH SCIENCES CAREER SUMMIT SLATED FOR APRIL 26 IN BELLINGHAM**

A statewide summit on healthcare careers focused on reducing health professional shortages, helping students find pathways to meet their professional career goals, and building a more diverse workforce is set for Friday, April 26 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Whatcom Community College in Bellingham. The summit is aimed at community and technical college health science and workforce program educators, STEM and CTE teachers, and guidance and career counselors and advisors. The summit is the work of the Area Health Education Center for Western Washington and Allied Health Center of Excellence based at Yakima Valley College, along with the University of Washington School of Medicine, and representatives of OSPI and WA-ACTE. Clock hours are available, including STEM. Register at: <https://form.jotform.com/cjensen/nw-health-career-path-summit>

## **WENATCHEE EIGHTH GRADERS TO PARTICIPATE IN PIZZA, POP, & POWER TOOLS EVENT**

Eighth grade girls in the Wenatchee School District will get to weld, operate heavy equipment, use power tools and machining equipment, and scale a 30-foot power pole, among other activities, as part of "Pizza, Pop, and Power Tools" on May 7. This popular event, which launched in Spokane, is meant to encourage girls to explore a variety of non-traditional careers for women. Organizers hope more girls enroll in high school career and technical education (CTE) classes in construction trades and welding, and move forward with vocational training after high school, including apprenticeships. More details:

<https://www.wenatcheeschools.org/wl/programs/pizza-pop-power-tools>

## **WASHINGTON'S LARGEST YOUNG ADULT JOB FAIR RETURNS TO TACOMA DOME APRIL 23**

JobFest, the state's largest job fair aimed at 16- to 24-year-olds, is set for 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday, April 23, at the Tacoma Dome. An estimated 100 exhibitors will be on hand, many of whom will be interviewing applicants on the spot. Young adult job seekers can register in advance to receive special information about JobFest VIP sessions. Get more details and register for this free event: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jobfest-2019-registration-53664249214?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

# March 20, 2019

## **FUTURE OF WORK FEATURED AT UPCOMING ESD ECONOMIC SYMPOSIUM**

Join economic and workforce development colleagues on April 1 at the 2019 Economic Symposium hosted by the Washington Employment Security Department's Labor Market and Economic Analysis division in Seattle. The Workforce Board's own Lew McMurrin and Joe Wilcox, who are co-managing the agency's Future of Work project, will lead a break-out session focused on workforce trends and "future proofing" Washington's workers and businesses. Get more details about the symposium and register at: <https://esd.wa.gov/2019-Symposium/register>

## **LINKEDIN TRAINING AVAILABLE TO WASHINGTON CAREER COUNSELORS**

LinkedIn is providing two training sessions to Washington career counselors, including a webinar slated for 1 p.m. tomorrow, so counselors can learn how to better assist jobseekers in using LinkedIn for networking and job search. Job counselors will learn how to build profiles that attract employers, expand professional networks, and search and apply for jobs. More details: Thursday, March 21 at 1 p.m. Tuesday, March 26 at 10 a.m.

## **HEALTH SENTINEL NETWORK OPEN, JOIN TODAY!**

The Health Sentinel Network is currently recruiting volunteer healthcare employers for an ongoing project tracking Washington's rapidly changing health workforce. The project is a Workforce Board collaboration with the University of Washington Center for Health Workforce Studies. The project, launched in 2016, collects key data at regular intervals from sentinel healthcare industry employers and provides rapid turnaround of information about emerging issues affecting employers, educators, training institutions, and other stakeholders. More at: [www.wasentinelnetwork.org](http://www.wasentinelnetwork.org). Already a Sentinel? Go to: [www.wasentinelnetwork.org/join](http://www.wasentinelnetwork.org/join).

## **HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY OUTREACH FUNDING AVAILABLE**

Washington's Department of Transportation is holding a series of public meetings starting April 3 in Yakima to provide more information about grant funding that pays for outreach to women, minorities, and other socially and economically disadvantaged populations interested in highway construction careers. It's part of the PASS (Pre-Apprenticeship Support Services) grant program aimed at helping create greater diversity in the highway construction workforce. The meetings are aimed at nonprofit organizations providing employment assistance and other support services. More details: <https://www.wsdot.wa.gov/EqualOpportunity/pass.htm>

## **SPOKANE WORKFORCE CEO ELECTED TO LEAD NATIONAL ORGANIZATION**

Mark Mattke, CEO of the Spokane Workforce Council, has been elected president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors Workforce Development Council. The Council is comprised of workforce leaders from urban areas across the country who help shape national policy and craft innovative approaches to building strong and effective local workforce systems.

# February 27, 2019

## **WORKFORCE BOARD MEETS MARCH 13 TO DISCUSS TAP GOALS**

The Workforce Board will hold its regularly scheduled meeting March 13 in Olympia. On the agenda: Recommitting to goals outlined in "Talent and Prosperity for All" (TAP), the state's strategic plan for workforce development. Board members will also hear a presentation focused on their role in helping steer career and technical education (CTE) in Washington. More details coming soon!

<https://www.wtb.wa.gov/March2019meeting.asp>

## **FUTURE OF WORK FEATURED AT UPCOMING ESD ECONOMIC SYMPOSIUM**

Join economic and workforce development colleagues on April 1 at the 2019 Economic Symposium hosted by the Washington Employment Security Department's Labor Market and Economic Analysis division in Seattle. The Workforce Board's own Lew McMurrin and Joe Wilcox, who are co-managing the agency's Future of Work project, will lead a break-out session focused on workforce trends and "future proofing" Washington's workers and businesses. Get more details about the symposium and register at: <https://esd.wa.gov/2019-Symposium/register>

## **A FEW DAYS LEFT TO CELEBRATE CTE MONTH**

Every February, the CTE community celebrates CTE Month, to raise awareness about the role that career and technical education plays in helping students prepare for careers and college. Sure, it's almost the end of the shortest month of the year, but you still have time to throw a bit of confetti, and learn more about the power of CTE at: <https://www.careertech.org/cte-month-campaign>

## **AWB WORKFORCE SUMMIT FOCUSES ON EMPLOYEE CULTURE**

The Association of Washington Business is hosting a third annual workforce summit March 6 at the Bellevue Hilton. The half-day event is focused on helping businesses retain their employees, by digging into issues ranging from financial stress to mental health to lack of access to childcare. More info and registration details: <https://www.awb.org/olympia-business-watch/?bid=20146>

## **READY WASHINGTON LAUNCHES "PLAN YOUR PATH" STUDENT VIDEO CONTEST**

Ready Washington has launched a student video contest to help Washington high school students think about, and articulate, their education and career goals in 30 seconds or less. Ready WA is a coalition of 20-plus state and local agencies, associations and advocacy organizations focused on helping high school students prepare for further education and careers. Deadline is Friday, March 8, so don't delay. More details:

<https://readywa.org/planyourpathwa2019/>

# February 7, 2019

## **FUTURE OF WORK TASK FORCE POSTS PLAN OF ACTION FOR 2019**

The Future of Work Task Force has released its Plan of Action for 2019, identifying 10 policy areas to explore this year. The Task Force also identified four key economic and workforce trends to examine, including growth of income disparity across populations, geography, and business sectors; and changing skills needed for workers to attain and perform quality jobs. The Task Force includes six members each from the state's business and labor communities, and one legislator from each of the four legislative caucuses. The Workforce Board heads up the Future of Work project, which was funded by the 2018 Legislature and signed into law by Governor Inslee. Read the Plan of Action and find out more at: <https://www.wtb.wa.gov/futureofwork.asp>

## **STAY ON TOP OF WORKFORCE BILLS WITH LEGISLATIVE TRACKER**

Follow workforce bills throughout the 2019 Legislative session. View some of the (many!) bills our Workforce Board staff are tracking, along with presentations and materials. <https://www.wtb.wa.gov/LegislativeUpdates.asp>

## **STUDENT LOAN ADVOCATE HIRED TO HELP WASHINGTON BORROWERS**

A student loan advocate housed at the Washington Student Achievement Council is now available to help student loan borrowers by providing reliable and timely information about a variety of repayment issues. It's a new position that stems from state legislation that passed last year to improve consumer protection for students. Attorney General Bob Ferguson's office requested the bill, known as the Student Loan Bill of Rights. More information: <https://bit.ly/2DcrZGo>

## **NEW CEO NAMED FOR CAREER PATH SERVICES**

Cami Eakins has been appointed as the next CEO of Career Path Services, starting October 1. Eakins has served as the organization's Chief Operations Officer for the last nine years. She succeeds current CEO George Iranon, who will retire after 39 years at Career Path Services, the last 12 years as CEO. Career Path Services, headquartered in Spokane, is a non-profit organization that serves youth, low-income adults, dislocated workers, and employers at WorkSource career centers in many areas of the state. <https://careerpathservices.org/news/>

## **FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRIBUTES NEW BOOK TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR WORKERS, EMPLOYERS**

The Federal Reserve System is distributing a new three-volume book that offers research, best practices, and resources from a wide range of respected sources on workforce development. The book is part of a larger initiative dubbed "Investing in America's Workforce," focused on the U.S. reaching its full economic potential by better aligning workforce skills with employer needs. Order a hard copy of the book, or download sections at: <https://www.investinwork.org/book>

# January 24, 2019

## **WORKFORCE BOARD TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC CYCLE PLANNING AT NEXT WEEK'S MEETING**

The Workforce Board meets next Wednesday at the Lacey Community Center at 9 a.m., and will hear from the state's Employment Security Department and other partners on how they're using "economic cycle planning" to prepare for, and better respond to, the next economic downturn. The Board will also hear a legislative update on workforce bills of interest for the 2019 session. More meeting details at:

<https://www.wtb.wa.gov/January2019meeting.asp>

## **NEW WORKFORCE SYSTEM POSTER AVAILABLE—AND IT'S FREE!**

The Workforce Board's popular workforce system poster is freshly updated and ready for 2019. Make sure to order copies of this handy overview of the programs that make up Washington's workforce training system, including participant employment rates and earnings, federal and state funding totals, and a listing of administering agencies and providers. The poster is often referred to as "America's favorite matrix," at least by staff in our office. It's free and perfect for cubicle and office walls.

<https://www.wtb.wa.gov/WorkforceDevelopmentDirectory.asp>

## **RESOURCES FOR FURLOUGHED FEDERAL WORKERS AVAILABLE IN ONE PLACE**

Resources aimed at federal workers furloughed because of the federal government shutdown have been consolidated on a new web page created by the Governor's Office. This page includes links to unemployment benefits; financial assistance, including information on loans; veterans' resources; food assistance; and more. An estimated 13,000 public employees in Washington work for agencies affected by the shutdown. More:

<https://www.governor.wa.gov/issues/issues/budget/federal-government-shutdown-resources>

## **CTE VIDEO CONTEST FOR 2019—HELP STUDENTS TELL THEIR STORIES!**

The Workforce Board has launched a new edition of our CTE "Get Real" Video Challenge. This year's winning teams can earn as much as \$250 for their high school or middle school career and technical education department. All it takes is a cell phone, some creativity, and meeting a few contest guidelines. Get all the details at: <https://www.wtb.wa.gov/CTEvideoproject.asp>. Need some inspiration? Check out winning videos from last year's contest on Career Bridge's CTE page. <http://www.careerbridge.wa.gov/Page.aspx?cid=1052>

## **WA-ACTE CALLS FOR PRESENTATIONS FOR SUMMER CONFERENCE**

The Washington Association for Career and Technical Education is seeking presentation proposals for their summer conference, slated for August 4-7 at the Davenport Grand Hotel in Spokane. Look for registration details in March. More: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SC2019CFP>

# January 3, 2019

## **STAY ON TOP OF WORKFORCE BILLS WITH LEGISLATIVE TRACKER**

Follow workforce bills throughout the 2019 Legislative session. View bills our Workforce Board staff are tracking, along with presentations and materials at: <https://www.wtb.wa.gov/LegislativeUpdates.asp>

## **WASHINGTON'S MINIMUM WAGE CLIMBS TO \$12 PER HOUR**

The minimum wage in Washington has increased to \$12 per hour, starting January 1, for workers age 16 and older. Under state law, tips do not count toward a worker's minimum wage. Also, employers can pay workers under 16 years old 85 percent of the minimum wage. For 2019, that comes out to \$10.20. When Initiative 1433 passed in 2016, it set a schedule for Washington's minimum wage over a four-year period. In 2020, the state's minimum wage will rise to \$13.50. More details: <https://bit.ly/2PQsBWA>

## **SURVEY PROVIDES WASHINGTON NURSING WORKFORCE SNAPSHOT**

A new report from the Washington Center for Nursing surveyed over 9,200 nurses from across the state and looked at career satisfaction, salary, and hours worked, among other items. The Nursing Center, in conjunction with the University of Washington Center for Health Workforce Studies, produced the report which focused on the supply of nurses and workforce demographics. The report also shed light on how nurses feel about their current roles and outlook for the future. The Workforce Board staffs the Health Workforce Council, which addresses current and projected shortages of Washington healthcare workers, including nurses. More: <https://www.wcnursing.org/washington-states-registered-nurse-workforce-results-of-a-2018-survey/>

## **ABLE PLAN HELPS THOSE WITH DISABILITIES SAVE, REMAIN ELIGIBLE FOR BENEFITS**

The state's Department of Commerce encourages those with disabilities and their families to start the New Year by opening a tax-advantaged Washington ABLE Savings Plan. The plan, which launched last summer in Washington, is part of a larger federal program that allows individuals with disabilities and their families to save for their everyday needs without losing their state or federal benefits. Qualified expenses include everything from employment and training support to housing, transportation, and assistive technology. More: <https://www.washingtonstateable.com/>

## **TEDxTACOMA VIDEOS FEATURING MILITARY TRANSITIONS NOW ONLINE**

A TEDxTacoma event aimed at life transitions, including moving between the military and civilian world, was recorded and is now online. Modeled after the popular TED talks, where speakers tackle important topics during, short, powerful presentations, local TEDx talks focus on community issues. The event was held in November at Joint Base Lewis-McChord and included Employment Security Department Commissioner Suzi LeVine. Lead sponsors were the Pacific Mountain Workforce Development Council and Workforce Central. Watch the videos: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-CyOcr1Gizk&feature=youtu.be>